

# City of Greenville Media Release

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For immediate release

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## **City of Greenville to salute baseball legends Tommy Lasorda, Ted Williams, and hometown hero Shoeless Joe Jackson**

GREENVILLE, SC – In tribute to baseball legend and hometown hero “Shoeless Joe” Jackson, the City of Greenville has erected a life-size bronze statue of the ballplayer in a plaza in the Historic West End District. The unveiling of the statue on Saturday, July 13, 2002 will be the cornerstone of a special event that celebrates the all-American sport of baseball. Hall of Famer, Tommy Lasorda, one of the most enthusiastic and successful team managers in baseball history, is coming to Greenville to join the celebration and to receive a special award. Also attending the ceremony will be Arthur “Buzz” Hamon, former Assistant to Ted Williams and Director of the Ted Williams Museum. Mr. Hamon will pay special tribute to the legendary ballplayer.

Along with the dedication, the City plans to host a number of all-American festivities such as a pitching cage and children’s games. Philip Bildner, author of the new children’s book, “Shoeless Joe and Black Betsy,” and Joe Thompson, author of “Growing Up With Shoeless Joe” will have book signings. Refreshments for sale will include those ballpark favorites: peanuts, popcorn, Cracker Jacks, hotdogs, and apple pie. There will be autograph opportunities, souvenirs and music.

Special theater performances on the life of Joe Jackson will be taking place in a theater located near the event site.

## **Activity Schedule**

**MEDIA RECEPTION:** The media will have an opportunity to review the schedule of events and statue dedication program and talk with key event organizers and participants. Complete press packets and media passes will be distributed.

**WHEN:** Friday, July 7, 2002, 2:00p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Warehouse Theatre, 37 Augusta St., Downtown Greenville, S.C.  
(½ block from the statue dedication site)

**WHO:** Mayor Knox White

Arlene Marcley, Statue/Program/Event Director

Candace Sommer, Media Coordinator

Angie Prosser, Program and Events Administrator

Doug Young, Sculptor

Scott Johnston, Architect

Tom McDowell, Lead Actor

Joe Anders, former Textile Leaguer and close friend of Joe Jackson

Joe Wade Anders, Little Leaguer who will unveil the statue

Mike Nola, Shoeless Joe Jackson Virtual Hall of Fame: [www.blackbetsy.com](http://www.blackbetsy.com)

**STATUE DEDICATION CEREMONY,** A special tribute to the late Ted Williams, a special award to Tommy Lasorda, and the “Shoeless Joe” statue unveiling will highlight the ceremony. National and state representatives will be there to pay tribute to the ballplayers.

**WHEN:** Saturday, July 13, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** The Shoeless Joe Jackson Plaza, the intersection of Augusta, South Main, and Pendleton Streets.

**WHO:** Mayor Knox White

Federal and State Representatives

Tommy Lasorda

Six former “major leaguers”

Emcee Charlie Munson, WESC Radio

Arthur “Buzz Hamon” former assistant to Ted Williams and Director of the Ted Williams Museum.

University Baseball Coaches: Ray Tanner, USC; Jack Leggett, Clemson University, Ray Smith, Furman University

Joe Anders, former Textile Leaguer and close friend of Joe Jackson

Joe Wade Anders, Little Leaguer who will unveil the statue

**GENERAL ACTIVITIES** Games, food, souvenirs and celebrity guests, including six former major leaguers.

WHO: Everyone

WHERE: South Main Street and Augusta Street.

WHEN: 9:00 - 1:00 a.m.

**THEATRE PERFORMANCE:** "Shoeless Joe", a one-man play written by Thomas K. Perry.

WHO: Tom McDowell, Actor and City Fire Chief

WHERE: The Warehouse Theatre, 37 Augusta Street (½ block from the statue site)

WHEN: Saturday, July 13, 2002, performances at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

OTHER INFORMATION: \$10 tickets can be purchased at event site in the hospitality tent.